1	2	3	4	5
West Bengal	BIPV	2	16.4	5.00
	Stand alone Power Plant	5 villages	100.0	2318.26*
		2 schools	4.2	2.62

BIPV - Building Integrated Photovoltaic System

* This includes release of funds to the State agencies during 2005-06 & 2006-07 for both on-going and completed projects for installation of solar photovoltaic systems/power plants sanctioned under the remote village electrification programme.

Persistent drop-out of students

*211. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the children in the age group of 6-12 years are getting dropped out from schools persistently in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any concrete policy to enhance the enrolment of such children in schools to reduce the drop-out rate; and

(c) if so, the salient features of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) Drop-out rates have been declining steadily since launch of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The dropout rate at primary level declined from 39.03% in 2001-02 to 28.49% in 2004-05.

A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under SSA for reducing drop-out rates. One set of interventions relates to strengthening of schools and improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, annual school grants, regular training of teachers, regular academic support to teachers etc. In addition, several interventions under SSA also aim at community support, flexible schooling for children who are dropouts, older children or children in difficult circumstances, and special provisions to promote education of girls, children from disadvantaged sections of society or children with special needs.

Electrification of Rajasthan villages through solar and bio-gas energy

*212. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified through solar and bio-gas energy in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have launched any scheme/programme to provide energy derived from sun and bio-gas to rural areas of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to promote NCES in the country, particularly in remote rural villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (d) The Government is promoting technologies for use of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (NCES) in the country by creation of conducive policy environment as well as through various fiscal/financial incentives and other support measures. The fiscal/financial incentives include capital/interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, concessional duties and relief from taxes. Support is being provided for research and development, technology demonstration and manpower development. Increased acceptance of these technologies is being brought about through publicity and awareness programmes using electronic, print and other media. Setting up of Akshay Urja shops and District Advisory Committees in various parts of the country is also expected to help in promotion of their use, particularly in rural areas.

Considering their special relevance to rural areas, the Ministry has initiated a number of schemes which are aimed at promoting use of sun and bio-gas energy primarily in villages, including those in Rajasthan. The details of these schemes and their achievements in Rajasthan are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of schemes to promote non-conventional Energy Sources and their achievements in Rajasthan

Scheme	Brief Details	Achievements in Rajasthan
1	2	3
Remote Village Electrification	Remote unelectrified census villages and remote unelectrified hamlets of electrified villages, where grid connectivity will either not be feasible or not cost effective are electrified through non-conventional energy sources including solar and bio-gas. Central Financial Assistance of upto 90% of the system costs, subject to pre-specified maximum amounts is provided.	218 villages have been covered during the last 3 years through solar photovoltaic homelighting systems.
National Biogas and Manure Management Programme	The Programme provides for Central Subsidy, varying from Rs.2100 to Rs.11,700 per cubic metre capacity, depending upon the category of States. In addition, turnkey job fee, financial support for training of users, etc. is also provided.	66990 biogas plants have been set up in the State.

1	2	3
Solar Photovoltaic Demonstration Programme	The Programme aims at providing an alternative for rural lighting/ water lifting and small energy requirements through use of solar photovoltaic systems. Central Financial Assistance varying from Rs. 2500 to Rs. 9600 is provided for various types of solar lighting systems. Subsidy is also provided for setting up of solar pumps and stand-alone solar power plants.	Around 61500 solar lighting systems have been provided. In addition, 175.80 kWp SPV power plants and 283 solar water pumping systems have also been set up.
Biogas Based Generation	The Programme aims at meeting unmet demand of electricity in electrified villages in the country by use of biogas plants.	–
Village Energy Security	The concept aims at providing total energy requirements of villages including cooking, lighting and motive power through biogas and biomass technologies.	6 test projects have been taken up.

Outreach programme of NIOH

*213. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped (NIOH), Kolkata has stopped its outreach programmes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether NIOH has received demands to help people in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) when the Institute conducted an out-reach programme last in that State;

(e) whether follow-up camps would be held by the Institute; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The training-cum-follow up camp was organized with NTPC at Shimadri in March, 2007 and Ramagunda in February, 2007.

(e) Normally follow-up measures are taken by the local agencies.

(f) Does not arise.